

Message Text

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ORIGIN LAB-04

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AMCONSUL CURACAO
AMCONSUL BELIZE

UNCLAS STATE 209450

FOR LABOR OFFICER - INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: NA/

TAGS: ELAB, OVIP, OAS, XR

SUBJECT: OAS FEASIBILITY STUDY ON LABOR PROGRAM

REF: STATE 186396, CARACAS 7135, KINGSTON 6129

1. FORMER SECLABOR WILLARD WIRTZ AND FORMER MINLABOR RUBENS SAN SEBASTIAN (ARGENTINA), UNDER CONTRACT TO THE OAS, HAVE BEEN VISITING SEPARATELY SELECTED LATIN AND CARIBBEAN OAS MEMBER STATES TO CONFER WITH LABOR MINISTERS, TRADE UNION LEADERS AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES ON PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN THE FLAGGING OAS LABOR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. THE OAS STUDY MISSION, UNCLASSIFIED

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STRONGLY ENDORSED BY THE USG, WAS UNDERTAKEN TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST AND SUPPORT IN THE COUNTRIES VISITED FOR AN EXPANDED PROGRAM WHICH WOULD ALSO PROVIDE FOR MEANINGFUL ADVISORY ROLES FOR TRADE UNION AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES.

2. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE VISITS, WIRTZ AND SAN

SEBASTIAN WILL SUBMIT A JOINT REPORT (INCLUDING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS) TO OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL LATIN AND CARIBBEAN LABOR MINISTERS IN OAS MEMBER STATES IN LATE SEPTEMBER. THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL THEN BE DISCUSSED AND ACTED UPON AT THE 6TH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF LABOR MINISTERS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN LIMA, PERU, NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 2, 1978.

3. WIRTZ VISITED BRAZIL, VENEZUELA, BARBADOS AND JAMAICA, AND CONFERRED WITH GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS MONTH. SAN SEBASTIAN, WHO ACCOMPANIED WIRTZ TO ONE OF THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS, HAS VISITED ARGENTINA, URUGUAY AND PERU. HIS ITINERARY ALSO INCLUDES: COLOMBIA (8-14), GUATEMALA (8-16), EL SALVADOR (8-17), AND MEXICO (8-17/20).

4. WIRTZ REPORTED ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND SOME BUSINESS LEADERS IN ALL COUNTRIES VISITED AND WAS ABLE TO CLEAR UP MISCONCEPTIONS BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE EXPANDED LABOR PROGRAM WOULD BE CARRIED OUT UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE OAS AND WAS IN NO WAY INTENDED TO WEAKEN OR THREATEN ILO TIES. WIRTZ IS PROPOSING CONSIDERATION OF AN EXPANDED OAS LABOR PROGRAM WITH A TRIPARTITE ADVISORY COUNCIL. IN REPORTING BRIEFLY TO USG AND TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES AT A MEETING IN THE LABOR UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT ON AUGUST 10, WIRTZ OUTLINED THE PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE TRIPARTITE ADVISORY COUNCIL AT MEETINGS HELD ANNUALLY BETWEEN TRIENNIAL LABOR MINISTER CONFERENCES:

(1) REVIEW THE EXTENT TO WHICH RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRIENNIAL LABOR MINISTER CONFERENCES ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED;

(2) REVIEW BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS;

(3) CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER ACTIONS, IF ANY, SHOULD BE TAKEN IN ADVANCE OF THE UPCOMING MINISTER OF LABOR CONFERENCE;

(4) CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF OUTSIDE FUNDING IF OAS FUNDS FOR LABOR/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ARE INSUFFICIENT;

(5) ASSURE ACCESS OF THE TRIPARTITE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL WHEN THE SITUATION WARRANTS.

5. A FOLLOW-UP CABLE WILL BE SENT TO ALL ADDRESSEE
POSTS UPON SAN SEBASTIAN'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND
COMPLETION OF THE STUDY MISSION'S REPORT DUE SEPTEMBER 30.
IF AVAILABLE, THE FULL REPORT IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE ARA LABOR ATTACHE CONFERENCE
(WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 25 THROUGH 29) AT WHICH THE OAS

LABOR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND USG STRATEGY
TO STRENGTHEN IT SUBSTANTIALLY, WILL BE DISCUSSED.

6. LABOR OFFICERS FOR THE TIME BEING SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY
INITIATIVES BUT ARE REQUESTED TO REPORT ANY REACTIONS
VOLUNTEERED BY GOVERNMENT, TRADE UNION AND INDUSTRY
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CONTACTS. VANCE

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